

The Washington Post \_\_\_\_\_  
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The Wall Street Journal 25 \_\_\_\_\_  
The Christian Science Monitor \_\_\_\_\_  
New York Daily News \_\_\_\_\_  
USA Today \_\_\_\_\_  
The Chicago Tribune \_\_\_\_\_

Date 6 April '88

# Who Should've Been This President's Men?

## A Revolution but for the Revolutionaries

With the thought that "personnel is policy," we asked a range of notables to name those Reagan appointees who had best and worst served the nation:

**Paul Burke**, executive editor, *Texas Monthly*

**BEST**—James A. Baker III (chief of staff): Shut out Far Right and its social agenda, did most to keep administration in conservative mainstream.

**William Bennett** (secretary of education): On most important issue of our time was consistently outspoken and consistently right.

**Sandra Day O'Connor** (Supreme Court): Clever appointment—a woman, so impossible to attack from left, but also anti-abortion so satisfactory to right. Eased fears of conservative judicial revolution while changing direction of court.

**WORST**—Edwin Meese (attorney general): Openly refused to acknowledge authority of Constitution, shut eyes to criminal misconduct, messed up Iran/Contra investigation.

**William Casey** (CIA director): Undercut fabric of democracy by running a government within a government.

**James Watt** (interior secretary): So abrasive he was totally ineffective speaking for viewpoint that deserved hearing—that federal lands should be opened to some activities. Never accepted idea federal lands are public trust.

**Reed Irvine**, *Accuracy in Media*

**BEST**—Casey: Did much to restore CIA effectiveness, morale after disastrous Turner years.

**Bennett**: First occupant of office with courage and wit to talk sense to educational establishment.

**Patrick J. Buchanan** (communications director): Spoke out for president, marshaled support when others ran for tall grass. Fought mice on White House staff nibbling Reagan agenda to death.

**WORST**—Thomas Griscom (communications director): Couldn't even get president on network TV to give one of most important speeches of second term.

**Deaver**: Apparently proud of doing most to keep those who shared Reagan's political philosophy from exercising influence in Reagan's administration.

**Sharon Percy Rockefeller** (Corporation for Public Broadcasting board): Reappointment made it impossible to clean up liberal mess.

**Richard Holbrooke**, investment banker, assistant secretary of state under Carter

**BEST**—Darman: Extraordinary ability; without him, little could have been claimed in domestic/economic areas.

**Michael Armacost** (undersecretary of state): Epitomizes best of career federal service; played key roles in Philippines policy success, Afghanistan, etc.

**Mansfield**: Best holdover; best "political" appointee.

**WORST**—Casey: Automatic place.

**Poindexter/North/McFarlane**: Package entry; unable to sort out roles in arms for hostages deal.

**Watt**: May be gone, but attempts to wreck national heritage not forgotten.

**John Boland**, financial writer

**BEST**—Casey: Revived agency and lifted morale.

**Kirkpatrick**: Articulate voice for West. **Justices Scalia, O'Connor**: Rationalizing court.

**WORST** — David Ruder (chairman, SEC): Tally-ho for regulation.

**Verity**: Red carpet for Soviet trade.

**R. Emmett Tyrrell Jr.**, editor-in-chief, *American Spectator*

**BEST** — Casey: Recognized historic forces bearing down on U.S.; intent on advancing its influence—always with same audacity Schlesinger thought he found admirable in JFK's thousand days.

**Bennett**: Took a small job at Educa-

tion and made it powerful instrument for scrutinizing social and domestic policy.

**Lehman**: Built Navy into powerful foundation for U.S. diplomacy of peace.

**WORST**—Deaver: Dutiful about the humdrum while attempting to thwart all higher values and many of wisest policies his boss stood for.

**Bell**: Defended education as though it were vested interest like sugar growers' lobby and not vivifier of American mind and culture.

**Stockman**: A genius provincial: cut budgets whether cuttable or not, raise taxes whether growth-retarding or not; then, having followed prescriptions of Capitol Hill, behold in retirement highest levels of peacetime spending in history.

**Rep. Stephen Solarz (D, N.Y.)**

**BEST**—Steven Bosworth (ambassador to the Philippines): When fate of that nation hung in balance two years ago, provided perfect combination of finesse and forcefulness.

**Mike Mansfield** (ambassador to Japan): Octogenarian whose vigor and zest for life have made him perhaps our most effective envoy ever to nation that venerates age and tradition.

**Carlucci**: Returns a prudent sense of proportion and reality to Pentagon after seven years of profligacy.

**WORST**—Casey: According to testimony before Irangate committee, led Reagan down primrose path to biggest foreign policy fiasco of his presidency.

**Poindexter**: Either lied to Congress or displayed deplorable judgment in keeping from president information he needed.

**Watt**: Made stripminers look like charter members of Sierra Club.

EXCERPTED